GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:280
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2001
MILITANTS SEEKING REFUGE IN MOSQUES
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the security forces operating in Kashmir have expressed serious concern about the new phenomenon of militants seeking refuge in mosques;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the reaction of Union Government thereto; and

(c) the policy of the Government to deal with the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)and(b): No Sir: Security forces have not expressed any serious concern over the phenomenonof terrorists seeking refuge in mosques though they are aware of the sensitivities involved in launching operations in religious places.

(c): Security forces have the latitude to deal with emerging situations based on the ground level exigencies of each particular case and to plan their operations in such a way that minimum possible damage to religious structures takes place without compromising the objectives of the operation.